UNITED NATIONS **S**

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S/1999/1009
27 September 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 23 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have been continuing and that the aircraft in question have been engaging in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation. On 21 September 1999, 26 United States and British formations carried out 16 armed sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 40 from Saudi airspace with support provided by an AWACS aircraft from inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew areas in Basrah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Najaf, Qadisiyah and Wasit governorates and attacked civilian and services-related installations. Our air defences engaged the aircraft and forced them to retire into Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace.

In one of the sorties flown on 21 September 1999, the aircraft fired missiles at civilian areas near the ancient city of Ur. A Swedish journalist, Jan Arell, a correspondent for Göteborgs-Posten, was injured as he was riding in a vehicle near the Ur archaeological site, which is 375 kilometres south of Baghdad. The Swedish journalist stated that he was driving his car at a point 2 kilometres from Ur when he was hit in the chest by fragments from an air-to-surface missile that landed 50 metres away. He dismissed outright the idea that there were any military bases or missile sites in the vicinity, thus exposing as false the worthless claims made by the United States and the United Kingdom that their attacks target sources of Iraqi anti-aircraft fire.

These cowardly attacks have the purpose of terrorizing the civilian population and causing serious damage to private and public property, and they constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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LETTER DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to document S/1999/995 of 22 September 1999, containing the text of a letter dated 21 September 1999 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Kuwait, in which he claims that armed Iraqis opened fire on members of the Kuwait Border Guard near boundary pillar 70 inside Kuwaiti territory, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

On 17 September 1999, at 0345 hours, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) informed the Iraqi side that the Kuwaiti side had told it that on 16 September 1999, at 0245 hours, an incident had occurred during which two Kuwaiti police officers had been shot near boundary pillar 73 (not boundary pillar 70), on the Kuwaiti side of the frontier, and had died after being taken to the Jahra hospital in Kuwait. The Iraqi side carefully studied these reports and indicated that it had had nothing to do with this incident, which had resulted from a clash between unidentified traffickers and the Kuwaiti police.

The Representative of Kuwait's allegations that armed Iraqis opened fire are totally unfounded and are intended only to compound the number of false accusations made against Iraq. The Representative of Kuwait knows full well that the two Kuwaiti police officers who were killed were off duty and were wearing civilian clothing, and that the incident occurred on Kuwaiti territory, which is separated from the Iraqi forces by UNIKOM forces. These lies are part of an attempt to cloud the issue and thereby undermine security and stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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